SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

"Warp Sonic"

(238-210)

(Script)

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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

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(203-210)

ACT I

FADE IN:

EXT. ROBOTROPOLIS STREET- NIGHT

Dark. Empty. WAIL OF SIREN heard approaching, but we see nothing. Then a HOVER-UNIT BLASTS OUT OF CAMERA and down the street.

CUT TO:

INT. TECHNO DOME

Three SILHOUETTES through a skylight panel. It slides away to reveal SONIC, SALLY and ANTOINE. All wear INFRA-RED GOGGLES around their necks. They look down on the... *

ROBOTROPOLIS ELECTRONIC NERVE CENTER

A giant, throbbing brain-like computer, which controls all automated traffic and machinery of Robotropolis.

Above it is an electronic map with moving lights indicating traffic activities and active machinery.

ANTOINE
Sacré bleu. It is hufungus. *

SONIC
You mean humungus, Ant. Hu-mung-us.

SALLY
It has to be, to handle all of Robotnik's traffic. *

Suddenly they duck back as...

A LAB-BOT

enters the room with a computerized clip board under one arm. He stops some distance from the computer and points his left hand toward it.

UP ANGLE

The Freedom Fighters peer down as...

THE LAB-BOT

presses a button on his left wrist, checks different readings on the computer and punches them into his clip board, presses his wrist button again and EXITS as the...

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

look at each other.

SONIC
What's with all the wrist action?

SALLY
I think I know.

She puts on her Infra-Red goggles and the others do the same. Their eyes widen as they look down at...

INFRA-RED POV - AN ELECTRONIC WARNING GRID

of crisscrossing and travelling infrared beams surrounding the Computer Brain, blocking any approach.

SALLY (O.S.)
Just as I thought. An alarm grid. *

SONIC (O.S.)
Whoa. That is nasty. *

BACK TO SHOT

As they stare at the O.S. grid.

ANTOINE
I'm thinking that not even a little moose can get through that thing there. *

SONIC
No prob, Ant. Where there's a Hedgehog, there's a way.

INT. DOME - UP ANGLE

As three ropes drop INTO SHOT, then the Freedom Fighters slide down and drop to the floor beside the grid: Sonic, Sally and Antoine.

SALLY

reaches for the small remote device clipped to her right boot and activates NICOLE.

SALLY
Nicole, put up holographic overlay.

NICOLE
Proceeding, Sally.

ANOTHER ANGLE

A holographic overlay appears over the grid.

NICOLE
Overlay complete. *

SALLY
Color code each square to five times normal size.

ON HOLOGRAPHIC OVERLAY

Colored squares appear scattered all over the grid overlay in a maddening pattern, then Sally turns to Sonic.

SALLY
You're sure you can get through there, Sonic?

SONIC
(points to himself)
Me get through there?
(pause)
Sal, is the sky blue? Is grass green? Do bears...

SALLY
Sorry I asked. *

SONIC
Juice time!

SONIC

jumps up, legs churning and VA-ROOMS straight up the wall and toward...

THE GRID - SERIES OF ANGLES

Zipping through the first marked square near the ceiling. He drops halfway down, legs churn again and he races through the second square. With fantastic leaps, twists and razor-sharp turns, he squeezes through one square after another.

He somersaults through the air and dives through the last square, landing gracefully on his feet, then bows.

SONIC
Thank you, thank you.
(looks up)
C'mon, guys, how about a round of applause? Even a square of applause. *

SALLY

rolls her eyes.

SALLY
Sonic, just get the circuit interrupter ready. Nicole scan for injector slot.

NICOLE
Scanning, Sally.

SONIC

takes a small disk out of his backpack, then watches the Computer Brain. Suddenly Nicole highlights a narrow slot.

NICOLE
Injector slot located.

SONIC
Time to fry some of the ol' brain cells, pal.

He slips the disk into the slot.

WIDER ANGLE

Instantly the Computer Brain starts to tremble. Lights flash, wires spark as the Brain loses its grip.

SONIC
Blows your mind, right, Big Guy?

CUT TO:

EXT. ROBOTROPOLIS - A MONTAGE OF ACCIDENTS

A REMOTE-OPERATED CARGO DRONE veers out of control and SLAMS into the side of an abandoned building. *

At the UNDERGROUND BASE several STEALTH-BOTS take off on a false signal and CRASH through the closed plexi-glass roof and... *

Several huge machines come to a GRINDING halt along a CITY STREET and...

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

watch as the giant Brain short circuits with sparks flying everywhere. It comes to a MOANING stop and...

THE ELECTRONIC TRAFFIC MAP

above the computer Brain dims, then goes dark. ALARM SIRENS are BLASTING away all over the place.

SALLY

smiles proudly at Sonic. They go through their little handshake ritual.

SALLY
We did it. All of Robotnik's traffic is paralyzed. *

ANTOINE
(nervously)
Then we should better be splitting. *

SONIC
Yeah. We'll use the tunnels.

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Pulsating with red lights, RINGING ALARMS plus the distant CLANG of approaching SWAT-BOT FOOTSTEPS. Suddenly...

THE DOOR

to the Computer Nerve Center flies open and the Freedom Fighters rush into the corridor.

CORRIDOR INTERSECTION

As they run up, Sonic stops, looks at Sally.

SONIC
Which way, Sal?

SALLY
Go right.

WIDER ANGLE

As they head for the right corridor, a half-dozen Swat-Bots run into view and...

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

pull up short, their path blocked.

SONIC
You were kiddin' about goin' right, right?

SALLY **
Right.

SONIC **
You meant left, right?

SALLY **
Right.

SONIC *
I knew that.
(to the Bots)
We'd like to hang with you guys, but we've gotta motor.

They rush into...

THE SECOND CORRIDOR

and come to another abrupt halt. As the corridor dead-ends with a huge steel door that looks about ten feet thick. Sonic looks at Sally

SONIC **
You didn't mean left, right? You meant middle.

SALLY **
Middle, right.

They race to the middle corridor, but more Swat-Bots appear.

They race to the middle corridor, but more Swat-Bots appear.

THE FIGHTERS

stop. Trapped. Antoine chews his fingernails.

ANTOINE
Oh, this is terrible! I am too much young and handsome.

SONIC
Take a chill-pill, Ant. It's not over till it's over.

They back toward the wall and...

THE SWAT-BOTS

move in menacingly from all directions, laser rifles aimed as...

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

back up against the wall and Sonic gets into his kick-ass pose.

SONIC
I'll get us outta this, no problemo.

Suddenly a SECTION of the wall behind them slides open. A hand reaches out and yanks the terrified Antoine into the dark opening.

ANTOINE
Aaahhhh!

Sonic and Sally react as...

THE SWAT-BOTS

open fire with their laser rifles and ...

SONIC AND SALLY

dive into the opening. Laser fire EXPLODES all around them as the wall-section sides back into place with a resounding CLANG.

CUT TO:

INT. WALL SPACE

A narrow space between the corridor wall and an outer wall that looks like a passageway. Antoine lies on the floor next to Sonic and Sally. He has fainted.

Sally and Sonic look up to see a tall, good-looking teenage GOAT named GRIFF (without a goatee) looking down at them. He extends his hand to Sally and pulls her up.

SALLY
Thanks for the help. *

SONIC
Yeah. You saved me the trouble. *

SALLY
I'm Sally...this is Sonic.

GRIFF
Hello. I'm Griff.

ANTOINE

comes around and...

ANTOINE
(moans)
Oh, my goodnessness. W...Where * am I going?

SALLY
Oh, and this is Antoine. *

Suddenly, the wall SHUDDERS and starts to CRACK. *

GRIFF
The Swat-Bots. *
(he moves off)
Follow me.

WIDER ANGLE

As Sonic and Sally follow Griff into the darkened passage, Antoine scrambles to his feet, eyes wide.

ANTOINE
Wait for mois!

He chases after them just as the wall behind him BREAKS open.

CUT TO:

INT. WALL SPACE - CORRIDOR

As they rush through the dark, past spider webs and creepy-crawly things. Behind them we can hear the Swat-Bots coming.

SALLY
(breathless)
Where are we going?

GRIFF
Lower Mobius.

SONIC
Lower Mobius?

GRIFF
Yes. We escaped Robotnik's Swat-Bots and built an underground city. There's about thirty of us.

SONIC
We've heard about you guys.

GRIFF
As we have heard of the Freedom Fighters. Especially you, Sonic.

Suddenly they enter...

A MAZE OF HUGE PIPES

stretching for miles and miles, crisscrossing Robotropolis below the surface. Some run vertical, some horizontal, many interconnect. Some are as big as tunnels, others are much smaller. Altogether it looks like an intertwining steel jungle.

Griff stops before a huge vertical pipe and slides away a small section, revealing an...

ELECTRONIC COMBINATION LOCK

Griff quickly punches in a code and a section of the pipe slides away, revealing a...

BULLET-SHAPED HOVER SLED

magnetically locked against the pipe.

GRIFF
Welcome to the Pipeline Express.

CUT TO:

INT. PIPE

DARK SCREEN. We hear a WHINING SOUND coming fast. Then from out of the darkness comes The Pipeline Express, a sleek, HOVER-SLED, moving like a shot above the pipe. Griff's at the controls, Sonic and Sally beside him, Antoine in the back, hands over his eyes. He peeks through his fingers. Griff shifts gears. There's a GRINDING sound. (NOTE: All wear seatbelts) *

SALLY
What was that?

GRIFF
The gear box needs a little work.

ANTOINE
I am thinking it needs very much of the work. *

GRIFF

POUNDS the shift lever forward and the Hover-Sled picks up speed. Makes the hairiest Magic Mountain ride look tame in comparison. It ZOOMS above a network of twisting and intertwining pipes. *

CLOSE - ANTOINE - MOVING

He peaks through his fingers, sees...

POV - A STEEL PIPE DOOR *

looming straight ahead. *

ANTOINE (O.S.)
Sacré bleu! We are going to be crashing to pieces! *

GRIFF

smiles confidently.

GRIFF
Don't worry, Antoine...

He holds up a pencil-shaped object, points it at the steel door. A beam shoots out and... *

THE DOOR *

slides away, the hover-sled ZOOMS past it and the door slides back into place. *

GRIFF (O.S.) (CONT'D)
It keeps the Rat-Bots out.

ANTOINE - MOVING *

takes his hands away from his wide eyes, which widen even more. *

ANTOINE
R-Rat-Bots?

NEW ANGLE *

As the sled rockets along. *

GRIFF
Robotnik created them as *
tunneling rats years ago, then
abandoned them.
(pause)
Now they run wild.

ANTOINE
(little SQUEAK of *
fear)

GRIFF
All the Rats are dangerous, but *
one in particular.
(pause)
He's a mutant and much bigger
than the others.

ANTOINE *
(big SQUEAK of fear)

CUT TO:

A HUGE CAVERN - LATER

A large pipe extends from ceiling to floor at the very end of the cavern. We hear a HUMMING sound, then silence. Part of the pipe slides away, revealing...

THE HOVER-SLED

as it glides to a stop.

GRIFF
Welcome to Lower Mobius, Freedom
Fighters.

He gestures toward...

THE UNDERGROUND CITY

A wide tunnel leads to a huge cavern with houses and shops dug into the solid rock around the cavern. In the center is an open bazaar, with stalls selling a variety of goods. Tunnels lead off from the cavern in various directions.

BACK TO OUR GROUP

looking out at the underground city.

SALLY
Ohmygosh. It's beautiful.

SONIC
Yeah. Past cool. *

[OMIT] *

CUT TO:

EXT. THE TUNNEL

Griff leads the Freedom Fighters through the tunnel toward the Underground City. They approach a BOAR-LIKE GUARD who stands before a glowing CHAMBER cut into solid rock. *

GUARD (DIRK)
Welcome back, Griff. Have a successful trip? *

GRIFF
Not really, Dirk, but I met some Freedom Fighters. *

DIRK

snaps to attention and salutes.

DIRK
We are honored.

Antoine salutes him back and CLICKS his heels together. *

ANTOINE
Merci. Merci. *

WIDER ANGLE

To include a large Energy Crystal encased in an oval, glowing chamber. Slots for energy cables surround the Crystal. Four cables lead from the Crystal to a huge generator.

GRIFF
This is our energy chamber. It supplies all the power for Lower Mobius.

SONIC
Whoa. We could sure use somethin' like that in Knothole. *

GRIFF
Without it, we couldn't survive down here. *

NEW ANGLE *

As they walk off, the energy crystal flickers and fades. Griff looks back over his shoulder with concern as the generator grinds to a stuttering halt. Then the Energy Crystal starts to glow again and the generator restarts. *

ON GRIFF - MOVING *

Still moving away from CAMERA, he SIGHS with relief as... *

[OMIT] *

SONIC

suddenly stops and SNIFFS the air. *

SONIC
Whooo-o-a-a-a! Is the ol' nose playin' tricks or do I smell a...
(licks lips)
...chili dog?

He leaps in the air, legs spinning and VA-ROOOOMS O.S.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNDERGROUND CHILI DOG STAND

CLOSE ON Sonic's fingers DRUMMING on a countertop. PAN UP as he looks O.S., licking his lips, then PULL BACK TO... *

WIDER ANGLE

revealing an UNDERGROUND BAZAAR, a series of small, simply constructed boutiques of which the chili dog stand is a part. Sonic sits on a stool, watching the PIG PROPRIETOR cook up a bunch of chili dogs. *

PIG
You really gonna eat all twelve of these chili dogs?

SONIC
Yeah, but those're just appetizers.

THE PIG

sits the huge platter of dogs down in front of a drooling Sonic.

PIG
Enjoy.

Sonic stares at the dogs with wide eyes.

SONIC
Pinch me, I must be dreamin'.

He grabs one of the juicy dogs, opens his mouth and is about to take his first bite when an ALARM SOUNDS O.S. and the Pig abruptly closes up the stand.

SONIC
Yo. What's up?

[OMIT]

GRIFF (O.S.)
(YELLS)
Sonic!

Sonic looks around as...

GRIFF

rushes up out of breath.

GRIFF
(breathless)
Sonic, I need your help. Rat-Bots are trying to penetrate the pipe system.

CUT TO:

INT. UPPER PIPES

The Hover-Sled rockets along above the pipe, Sally, Sonic and Griff in front, Antoine in the back.

GRIFF

suddenly SLAMS on the breaks, looking off at... *

TWO RAT-BOTS

blocking their way. They are the size of large dogs with * glowing yellow eyes and long steel tails that CRACKLE with electricity. They HISS and bare lethal fangs as they move toward...

THE HOVER-SLED *

Griff POUNDS the gearshift into reverse, but it GRINDS, then jams. He can't budge it.

GRIFF
We're trapped!

As the HISSING Rat-Bots move INTO CAMERA, electric tails poised * to strike, we...

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT II

FADE IN:

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

The Rat-Bots move threateningly toward CAMERA, HISSING as...

GRIFF

tries shifting into reverse with GRINDING noises.

GRIFF
I can fix it, but I need some time.

SONIC

leaps out of the sled.

SONIC
Not a prob. I'll handle the Rat-Butts.

GRIFF
Sonic...watch their tails.

Sonic zips O.S.

NEW ANGLE

As Sonic moves toward the Rat-Bots, one of them lashes out with its long tail, using it like an electric whip. SWISH! and... *

SONIC

zips to one side and the tail cuts through a narrow pipe, sending up a splash of sparks. Water squirts from the pipe. *

SONIC
Whoa! Nice try, Ratso.
(pause)
Actually, it was weak. Very weak. C'mon, gimme your best shot. *

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the other Rat-Bot comes up behind Sonic, raises its CRACKING tail and... *

SALLY
Sonic, behind you.

Sonic whips around as the Rat's tail SIZZLES through the air. * He leaps aside and the tail slashes a hole in the pipe where Sonic had been standing, sending up a gyser of sparks.

SONIC
Close, but no cheese, slime-wad.

THE RAT-BOTS

move toward him, whipping their arcing tails simultaneously. * Sonic does a backflip, barely getting out of the way as the tails scythe the air, just missing him.

SONIC
C'mon, creepos. I'm not even workin' up a sweat here.

NEW ANGLE

The Rats HISS, infuriated, then charge, whipping their tails in angry slashes. Sonic zips to the left, escaping one tail, ZOOMS back to the right, barely avoiding the other.

SONIC

leaps into the air as both tails slash at him vertically left * and right. He skips over the SPARKING tails as if jumping rope.

SONIC
Now you're cookin'. Yeah!

[OMIT]

He backs away from the slashing tails toward a large, vertical * pipe. Sonic stops, his back against the pipe, then jumps away as if it were hot, which it is.

SONIC
Ow. That's hot. *

He looks at the pipe, then back to the... *

RAT-BOTS *

as they move toward him. *

SONIC *

hits a casual pose, motions the Rats closer. *

SONIC
You rat-heads in the mood for a little hedgehog-ka-bob? Come n' get it. *

THE RATS *

charge, tails flashing. SWOOSH! Both laser tails whip toward him. Sonic ducks, zips away as... *

THE RAT TAILS

slash through the pipe, releasing a huge blast of SPARKS and steam which hits... *

THE RAT-BOTS

and more sparks fly as their circuitry goes haywire and... *

SONIC

leaps back into the sled, landing in his seat with his legs already crossed.

SONIC
I had to blow off a little steam.

ANTOINE'S

eyes suddenly widen as he looks O.S.

ANTOINE
I-I-I-I am thinking you will need m-<u>more</u> steam, Sonic Hedgehog. *

Sonic turns to see... *

THE MUTANT RAT-BOT *

enter through a side tunnel and head towards them. It looks like the smaller Rats, but uglier, meaner and three times the size. Its huge shadow falls over... *

THE HOVER-SLED *

As they all look up fearfully. *

GRIFF
It's the mutant. *

SALLY
Griff, can't you fix the gear shift? *

GRIFF
No. It's stuck solid. *

[BEGIN NEW] *

SONIC

vaults out of the sled and lands with his back to Sally.

SONIC
You guys hold on. I'll push you outta here.

GRIFF
Push us? How?

SALLY
A Power Ring.

Sonic zips around to the front of the sled as...

THE MUTANT RAT-BOT

moves closer, his long tail CRACKLING with electricity as it SLASHES the air.

ANTOINE (O.S.)
Ohh, he's not a nice rat. Hurry. Hurry. Hurry.

NEW ANGLE

Sonic grabs the Power Ring from his backpack, then plants his hands against the front of the sled. The Ring glows, Sonic glows. Griff stares at this phenomenon with wide, interested eyes.

SONIC
Grab your socks, we are gonna juice.

Sonic's feet wind-mill into a blur and he BLASTS OFF down the pipe, sending up a rooster tail of SPARKS as he pushes the Hover-Sled ahead of him at incredible speed. A split-second after they ROAR O.S....

THE MUTANT'S

steel tail whips down INTO SHOT with enough power to SHAKE THE SCENE and we...

CUT TO:

INT. ANOTHER PART OF TUNNEL

As the Sonic-powered sled blazes along, Griff aims his remote-device at the...

STEEL PIPE DOOR

and it opens a BEAT before Sonic and the sled rocket through, the door CLANGING SHOT behind them as we...

CUT TO:

INT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - UNDERGROUND BAZAAR AREA

Sonic throws on the ol' tennis shoe brakes and brings the sled to a SKIDDING halt.

GRIFF

stares at the Power Ring already starting to fade in Sonic's hands.

GRIFF
(awed)
Sonic...that...that was absolutely incredible. How does this Power Ring work?

SONIC
Only my Uncle Chuck knows for sure. He made 'em for me before he was robotisized.

GRIFF
You mean there's more than one?

SALLY
We receive a new Ring every twelve hours.

GRIFF
Fantastic. I've never seen so much condensed energy.
(pause)
Can I see it?

SONIC
Sure.

Sonic tosses Griff the Ring and the glow evaporates as soon as he touches it.

SONIC
Listen, I have some unfinished business. Catch you later.

He zips O.S., leaving Griff staring at the Ring.

WIPE TO:

EXT. CHILI DOG STAND

Sonic once again seated on the stool, DRUMMING his fingers as he waits for the Pig to cook up a new batch of chili dogs. Then, Sonic looks up as the overhead lights suddenly flicker and dim and we...

CUT TO:

EXT. ENERGY CRYSTAL

CLOSE ON Dirk, the guard we saw earlier, as he punches some buttons on the generator control pad and we PULL OUT TO...

WIDER ANGLE

revealing the energy crystal as it flickers and fades, while the generator sounds like it's about to pop out. Griff stands beside Dirk as he completes pushing a sequence of buttons. A BEAT, then the energy cube and generator return to normal, but not without a struggle.

DIRK
I doubt it will last another twenty-four hours, Griff.
(pause)
We have to do something.

GRIFF
The Freedom Fighters have an incredible energy source, but they're very protective of it.

DIRK **
This calls for drastic measures, Griff. Can they help us?

GRIFF **
(dubious)
I don't know yet if we can trust them.

CAMERA CLOSES ON Griff as he nods and his eyes narrow.

GRIFF (CONT'D)
I know what to do.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHILI DOG STAND

As the Pig once again slides a big, steaming platter of chili dogs before the drooling Sonic, who grabs one, opens his mouth and is about to take a mondo-bite when:

ANTOINE (O.S.)
(yells)
Sonic! Sonic!

Sonic again freezes in mid-bite and looks around as...

ANTOINE

rushes up out of breath.

ANTOINE
Oh, this is terrible. Terrible
(pause)
I can't believing it.

Sonic glares at Antoine.

SONIC
Can't believing what, Ant?

ANTOINE
Griff. He is stealing the heart of ma princesse.

Sonic drips the chili dog onto his plate.

SONIC
Say what?

Antoine grabs Sonic and pulls him off the stool.

ANTOINE
Coming along, I showing you.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF UNDERWORLD BAZAAR

As Antoine, then Sonic rise up into view from behind a rock (or whatever) and look O.S. Antoine CLASPS his hands together melodramatically.

ANTOINE
Sacré Bleu. This is the most...

THEIR POV

As Griff picks a long-stemmed, mushroom-like flower and hands it to Sally, who flashes a big smile.

ANTOINE (O.S) (CONT'D)
...terrible day of my young and handsome life.

BACK TO SHOT

As Sonic's brow twists into jealous knots.

SONIC
Yeah, well, anything he can do, I can do better.

He zips O.S.

SALLY

sits on a bench smelling her flower, Griff beside her.

SALLY
Thank you for the flower, Griff, it's beautiful.

GRIFF
Not as beautiful as you, Sally.

Sally blushes, looks away as...

SONIC

SKIDS up between Sally and Griff, holding a huge bouquet of mushroom flowers. He extends them to Sally, who is shocked.

[END NEW] *

SONIC
For you, Sal.

SALLY
Why Sonic, how sweet. *

Sonic purposely stands in front of Griff, blocking his view of Sally. *

SONIC
I wrote a poem for you. *

SALLY
You wrote a poem?

He clears his throat, strikes a pose.

SONIC
Hold onto your socks, cause this
is gonna blow you right outta
your shoes.
(clears his throat)
When it comes to speed
I can't be beat.
I'm faster than lightning,
faster than heat.
I'm so fast I burn up the street.
Ain't that mondo sweet? *

NEW ANGLE

Before Sally can react, Antoine rushes up, pushes Sonic aside and he now blocks Griff's view of Sally. He hands her an even bigger bunch of mushroom flowers. *

ANTOINE
For you, ma Princesse.

SALLY
Antoine, thank you, but...

ANTOINE
I too have written you a puum.

SALLY
I'm sorry...a what?

ANTOINE
A puum. A puum.

SALLY
Oh. A poem.

ANTOINE

drops to one knee and strikes a dramatic pose.

ANTOINE
I am a Royal Guard brave and
true.
Who gladly would be laying down *
my life for you.

SONIC

makes a face like he just bit into a lemon.

SONIC
'Scuse me while I chunk my chili.

Antoine jumps to his feet, wheels on Sonic.

ANTOINE
You are insulating my puum?

SONIC
No. Your puum insulates itself.

Antoine gets face to face with Sonic.

ANTOINE
It is much more romantic than your stu-pid puum. *

SONIC
Yeah, right. Dream on, Ant-head.

SALLY
Boys, please, you're being very rude to Griff. *

[BEGIN NEW] *

SONIC
Who cares?

ANTOINE
Yes. Who?

SALLY
I care. He saved our lives and I think you owe him an apology.

SONIC
I'm s'posed to apologize to him for tryin' to steal my girl?

SALLY
I'm not your girl.

SONIC
Since when?

SALLY
Since forever.

SONIC
(folds arms across chest)
I can wait.

GRIFF
Sonic, I'm not trying to steal Sally. Honest.

SONIC
Yeah, right.

GRIFF
Look, let me drive you back to the surface. It's the least I could do.

SONIC
We can walk.

Sally takes Griff by the arm and they walk off.

SALLY
You can drive me back, Griff.

Sonic and Antoine exchange a look, then scramble O.S. as we...

WIPE TO:

EXT. THE BADLANDS - DAY

A large, rusted water pipe sticks out of cement-duct wall. We hear ROARING of the Hover-Sled, then it comes BLASTING out of the pipe.

CLOSER SHOT- MOVING

Sally sits next to Griff, Sonic and Antoine in back, arms folded across their chests, very crabby expressions on their faces.

WIPE TO:

*

[END NEW]

EXT. WIDE ANGLE OF KNOTHOLE - DAY

With its mile-high trees, sparkling brooks, windmills and bamboo huts. We hear the Hover-Sled approach, then it breaks out into the open and glides toward a meadow. *

GRIFF (O.S.) *
This is really, really beautiful.

CUT TO:

[BEGIN NEW] *

EXT. KNOTHOLE MEADOW - DAY

As the Hover-Sled lowers INTO SHOT and touches down gently.

GRIFF
Home sweet home.

SALLY
Would you like a Knothole tour?

GRIFF
Thanks, but I should get back.

Sonic vaults out of the sled.

SONIC
Best idea you've had yet.
(pause)
You comin', Sal?

SALLY

ignores Sonic, kisses Griff on the cheek.

SALLY
Bye, Griff. Thanks for everything.

Antoine offers Sally a hand as she gets out, but she ignores that, too.

CLOSE ON GRIFF

As he speaks, we PAN DOWN with his hand as he disconnects a wire from under the control panel.

GRIFF
You're welcome and thank you. I hope we meet again.

He goes to start the Sled, but the engine SPUTTERS and COUGHS.

WIDER ANGLE

Griff tries again with the same result. A scowling Sonic and Antoine look on, arms still folded.

SALLY
What's wrong?

GRIFF
The engine needs a major tune-up.

SALLY
Then spend the night here. We have plenty of room and you can fix it in the morning.

SONIC AND ANTOINE

silently mimic Sally saying: "We have plenty of room and you can fix it in the morning."

GRIFF
Well, that's very kind.
(pause)
Alright, I accept.

CLOSE - SONIC AND ANTOINE

As they exchange a look and we...

WIPE TO:

[END NEW] *

EXT. POWER RING GROTTO - DUSK

Sally leads Griff up a path toward the Grotto, when Antoine suddenly leaps out from behind a rock holding a stick like a rifle. *

ANTOINE
Halt! Identify your own selves. *

SALLY
Relax, Antoine. You know it's us. *

ANTOINE
I am sorry, Ma Princesse, but a Royal Guard is never taking anything for granite... *
(looks pointedly at Griff)
...especially when there are strangers jerking about.

SALLY
Antoine, you're being a toad. *

They move past Antoine to the edge of the glowing pond. *

SALLY
This is where we get our Power Rings. *

GRIFF
It's very nice, but I'm not sure I understand... *

Just then the pool starts to RUMBLE, then the glow becomes a golden color, bubbles forming in the center. *

SALLY
We're in luck. A Ring is coming. *

THE POOL

becomes brighter and brighter, then a glowing Power Ring pops up out of the water and into the air. Sally grabs it and hands it to Griff. It glows brightly. *

CAMERA CLOSES ON GRIFF as he stares at it, fascinated and we... *

[OMIT] *

WIPE TO:

EXT. POWER RING GROTTO - NIGHT

Antoine still on guard, seated at the pool's edge. He YAWNS, then his head drops forward as he drifts off to sleep.

ANTOINE
(big YAWN, then light SNORING)

GRIFF

peers out from behind a tree. PAN as he sneaks past Antoine to the pool's edge.

ON ANTOINE

He SCRATCHES himself under one arm.

ANTOINE
(mumbles in his sleep)

GRIFF

lowers himself into the moonlit pond, takes a DEEP BREATH and slips beneath the surface. *

BELOW THE WATER

Griff swims powerfully toward the bottom, following a stream of air bubbles. The pond is deep and just as he's about out of air, he spots...

A MACHINE *

mounted on a metal platform at the bottom. It's a large, * square object with a hollow compartment in its center in which rests the POWER ROCK, which is about the size of a basketball. It's an irregular, greenish rock about the size of a beach ball. It glows and pulsates like a living thing. Tubes lead from the Rock into the machine. A funnel at the top of the machine releases a steady stream of air bubbles.

NEW ANGLE

As Griff swims up to the bubble funnel, puts his mouth over it and takes a deep breath. Then he spots...

THE POWER ROCK

and swims over to it. He examines the rock , wide-eyed, and * we...

CUT TO:

EXT. POWER RING POOL - NIGHT

Griff brakes the surface, GASPING for air and swims to the edge * carrying the Power Rock. He lifts the rock up onto the ground, then looks at...

ANTOINE

still sound asleep. MUMBLING and scratching under his other * arm now. We hear Griff climb from the pond.

NEW ANGLE

As Griff picks up the glowing Power Stone and slips away into * the night as we...

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT III

FADE IN:

[BEGIN NEW] *

EXT. KNOTHOLE - NIGHT

PAN ACROSS a series of huts all dark and still. The only light is from the moon. A SHADOWY FIGURE steps out from behind the tree. It's Griff carrying the still glowing Power Stone. The light gives him an eerie appearance as he skulks AWAY FROM CAMERA and we...

CUT TO:

EXT. SALLY'S HUT - NIGHT

CLOSE ON Sally at her window, looking up at the moon.

SONIC (O.S.)
Yo, Sal.

She jumps and...

SALLY
(GASPS)

WIDER ANGLE

As Sonic zips up beside window. They speak softly.

SALLY (CONT'D)
You scared me.

SONIC
Sorry.
(pause)
I've been thinkin'...

SALLY
Oh, trying something new?

SONIC
Funny.

SALLY
Thank you.
(pause)
Are you still jealous?

[END NEW] *

[OMIT] *

SONIC
Me, jealous?
(pause)
Hah.

SALLY
What is that supposed to mean?

SONIC
'Hah' is short for, 'You have no clue.'

SALLY
I have no clue?

Sonic looks treeward.

SONIC
I hear a parrot.

SALLY
I'll tell you who doesn't have a clue.

SONIC
Who?

SALLY
Look in the mirror.

Sonic whips out his trusty mirror, admires himself.

SONIC
All I see is...Hedgehog perfection.

[BEGIN NEW] *

EXT. KNOTHOLE MEADOW - NIGHT

Griff moves to his parked Hover-Sled, sets the glowing Power Stone inside, then hops into the control seat.

CLOSER ANGLE

As Griff re-connects the wire he disconnected earlier, then

starts the engine which makes a SOFT RUMBLING SOUND and lifts off slowly, not wanting to attract any attention.

CUT TO:

[END NEW] *

EXT. POWER RING GROTTO - NIGHT

Antoine still asleep. Suddenly, he wakes with a startled GASP. Looks around, then jumps up and stares at...

THE POOL

which is now completely devoid of any glow. He looks around, * senses that something is terribly wrong.

ANTOINE
Sacré bleu!

He rushes off and...

CUT TO:

EXT. SALLY'S HUT - NIGHT

Sonic and Sally as before. *

SONIC
What does he have that I don't * have?

SALLY
You mean besides a brain? *

ANTOINE (O.S.)
Sonic! Ma Princesse! *

ANTOINE

runs INTO SHOT all excited. *

ANTOINE (CONT'D)
Something terrible has happened! *

SALLY
What's wrong, Antoine? *

ANTOINE
I do not know. The Power Ring * pool. Something is wrong with it, but I do not know what.

*

Sonic zips O.S.

CUT TO:

EXT. POWER RING GROTTO - NIGHT

Sonic SKIDS IN at pool's edge and looks down at the dull water. *

SONIC
(to himself)
Yeah. Somethin' is way past uncool. *

He dives into the water. *

BOTTOM OF POOL

Sonic swims into view. His eyes widen when he sees...

THE POWER ROCK

is gone! *

CUT TO:

EXT. POWER RING GROTTO - NIGHT

Sally and Antoine wait anxiously at the pool's edge, then Sonic * surfaces with a GASP.

SONIC
(big GASP, then) *
The Power Rock is gone.

SALLY
Ohmygosh. But who would...? *

SONIC
Where's Griff? *

CUT TO:

[BEGIN NEW] *

EXT. KNOTHOLE MEADOW - NIGHT

This is the spot where the Hover-Sled was parked. We can see its outline in the flattened grass. Sonic zips in, picks something off the ground. Looks at it.

CLOSER ANGLE

It's a tiny piece of glowing Power Stone. FOOTSTEPS run up behind him.

SALLY (O.S.)
(a little breathless)
What is it, Sonic?

WIDER ANGLE

As Sally and Antoine come up behind Sonic.

SONIC
Griff's Hover-Sled is gone and I found this.

He holds up the piece of Power Stone.

ANTOINE
Sacré bleu.

SALLY
Griff took the Power Stone?

SONIC
Yep...and I'm gonna get it back.
(pause)
Juice time.

[END NEW) *

NEW ANGLE

Sonic rockets away into the distance, his backwash fluttering * Sally and Antoine's hair.

WIPE TO:

INT. LOWER MOBIUS - ENERGY CHAMBER - NIGHT

CLOSE ON the Energy Crystal as it flickers and dims. Griff * sets the Power Rock into one of the cable slots surrounding the Crystal. As soon as the Power Rock touches the Crystal, it starts to HUM and glow brightly, as energy flows into it and...

THE GENERATOR

RUMBLES back into action and...

CUT TO:

EXT. THE BADLANDS - NIGHT

Sonic BLASTS across the wasteland and... *

INT. LOWER MOBIUS - GRIFF

turns as Dirk rushes INTO SHOT. *

GUARD
Griff. The Rat-Bots got through.
They're comin'!

CUT TO:

EXT. BADLANDS - NIGHT - SONIC

bullets into the Badlands sewer pipe and...

CUT TO:

INT. LOWER MOBIUS - UNDERGROUND MARKET PLACE - NIGHT

Most of the market place is a wreck. A group of CITIZENS using * pieces of furniture and wooden posts are fighting off two Rat-Bots, led by the bigger MUTANT.

CLOSER ANGLE

As the Rat-Bots' tails slash through the sticks and furniture, reducing them to kindling.

GRIFF

leaps into the fray, wielding a lead pipe like a sword as he * pushes ahead of Dirk and the others. He moves toward the Rats and the Mutant slashes at the pipe with its tail. ZING! Cuts the pipe in half, in a shower of sparks, leaving Griff with a stub. He hurls it at the Rat-Bot, who deflects it with its tail as...

THE OTHER CITIZENS

flee in panic and...

THE RAT-BOTS

move toward Griff, who backs away, stumbles over some debris and falls as...

THE RAT-BOTS

advance HISSING and FLICKING their lethal tails and...

CUT TO:

INT. PIPE

As Sonic races along, the pipe opening up ahead starts to close.

SONIC
Bailin' warp seven!

He cranks up the speed, cheeks stretching out of shape from the pressure and...

THE CLOSURE

is almost complete, leaving only a small space and...

SONIC

rockets through it a split second before it CLANGS shut.

CUT TO:

INT. LOWER MOBIUS MARKET PLACE - GRIFF

still on the ground staring up at the advancing Rats. Their lethal tails slash closer and closer as...

SONIC

rockets INTO SHOT, grabs Griff on the move and whisks him O.S. just as two Rat-Bot tails SLASH the ground.

CLOSE RAT-BOTS

As they wheel around, yellow eyes glowing evilly.

NEW ANGLE

As Sonic SKIDS up behind the Rat-Bots...alone.

SONIC
You cheese-bags are really startin' to annoy me. *

NEW ANGLE

Twitching Rat tails slash out toward Sonic. He ZIPS out of the way... *

SONIC
My turn.

He jumps up, legs churning and VA-ROOMS around the Rat-Bots in a blurred circle.

THE RAT BOTS

turn their heads as fast as they can, slashing their tails at the circling Sonic. Sonic zips O.S. The Rats continue to slash away at nothing.

SONIC (O.S.)
Yo, no-brainers! Over here!

The Rats freeze and slowly turn their heads to see...

SONIC

standing cockily to one side of them. *

SONIC
Wanna give it up or what?

NEW ANGLE

The Rats HISS and rush Sonic, tails flicking.

SONIC
Guess not. Okay, see how you dig this.

Sonic goes into his Super-Sonic-Spin, whirling faster and faster until he's a blur, then drills himself right into the ground. The Rat-Bots stick their heads in the hole looking for him.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Sonic pops up behind the Rat-Bots and leaps to his feet.

SONIC
Yo...cheese-meisters!

The Rat-Bots whirl around.

SONIC (CONT'D)
You want me, I'm right here.

THE RAT-BOTS

move in on Sonic from three sides, tails lashing and... *

SONIC

leaps into the air, barely clearing the slashing tails and..

THE TAILS

become entangled into each other and..

yank at their tails, short circuiting them. Sparks fly, arcing * electricity travels down the tails and into they SHUDDER to a dead stop. Sonic zips in, peers closely at The Mutant Rat-Bot.

SONIC
You learned somethin' today, * cheese-heads. Don't you ever mess with the Hedgehog.

GRIFF (O.S.)
Thanks, Sonic.

Sonic turns as Griff ENTERS SHOT, his hand extended. Sonic ignores the hand.

SONIC
Forget the thanks, Griff. * Where's the Power Stone?

Griff stares at the ground.

GRIFF
I used it to keep our Energy * Crystal alive. Without the crystal, we couldn't survive.

SONIC
That doesn't give you the right * to steal from us.

GRIFF
(nods)
I'm sorry. I was desperate. *

SONIC
Where is it? *

CUT TO: *

[OMIT] *

[BEGIN NEW] *

EXT. ENERGY CRYSTAL - NIGHT

CLOSE ON the Power Rock glowing brightly. Griff's hands reach INTO SHOT, remove it from the shot as we...

WIDEN

to see Sonic beside Griff. As he pulls the Power Rock, the crystal dims and the generator WHEEZES to a stop. The overhead lights flicker and dim. Sonic looks up, then back at...

GRIFF

who hands him the Power Stone. They both feel badly.

SONIC
Look, Griff, what you did was wrong, but we're all in this war against Robotnik together...

He breaks off a softball-sized piece of the Power Stone and hands it to Griff. The lights grow dimmer.

SONIC (CONT'D)
This should keep you cruisin' for a while.

GRIFF
(looking at the glowing stone)
I...I don't know how to thank you...

Suddenly, the lights go out completely and the screen is dark except for the Power Stones, which cast eerie light on Griff and Sonic's faces.

SONIC
Maybe you oughta turn the lights back on.

GRIFF

quickly slips the piece of Power Stone into the slot and the Energy Crystal instantly starts to glow again. Then the generator starts up and the overhead lights flicker back to life.

Griff turns to Sonic and holds out his hand.

GRIFF
You're the best, Sonic.

They shake.

[END NEW] *

FADE OUT.

THE END